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From the Office of the Director of Health

HIV Positive Individuals Encourage Others to Get Tested

In conjunction with World AIDS Day, December 1st, a local group of people living with HIV encourages others to get tested. The group partnered with the City of Springfield to create a 60 second public service announcement sharing their personal stories and encouraging other people to get tested for HIV.

"HIV is affecting people of all ages, races and lifestyles," says Ryan White case manager Caryn Burk. "It's so important that people get tested early, to begin treatment and to protect others."

Confidential HIV testing is offered at no cost at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, located at 227 East Chestnut Expressway in Springfield. Call (417) 864-1683 or visit <http://health.springfieldmogov.org> for details. AIDS Project of the Ozarks also offers testing at 1901 E. Bennett, Suite D. Call 800-743-5767 or 417-881-1900 for more information about their testing hours.

"There are currently more than 680 people in the Ozarks living with HIV," adds Burk, "And national statistics tell us that at least 1 in 4 people who have HIV don't know it. The only way to learn your HIV status for sure is to be tested."

Media Contact:

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Media opportunity for interviews with people in the public service announcement and photographs/b-roll will be offered at a watch party Wednesday, November 29, at 2:00 pm at the Mud Lounge, located at 321 E. Walnut in Springfield.

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